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United States Department of Agriculture

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

2014 COLLEGE APPLICATION



National Scholars Program

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of minorities studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences and other related disciplines. Each year, hundreds of students apply for the program, which provides full tuition, as well as room and board.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellow Experience Program (FEP). Applicants accepted into the program will be appointed using the Schedule A(r) authority (5 CFR 213.3202) and are *not eligible for automatic conversion* to full time employment upon graduation.

A USDA/1890 National Scholar may apply for a Pathways internship, *which does automatically convert* to full time employment upon graduation. However, a student cannot be both a USDA/1890 National Scholar and a Pathways intern at the same time. For more information about the Pathways internship program, go to <https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentAndGrads>.

The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:

- 1.) Compete for appropriate employment immediately after graduation and, if selected, commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.) Reimburse the USDA Sponsoring Agency for costs of education (excluding the employees' pay and allowances) incurred by the USDA Sponsoring Agency if the scholar is voluntarily separated from the service of the USDA Sponsoring Agency before the end of the period for which the scholar has agreed to continue in the service of USDA.
- 3.) Consult with and obtain the approval of the sponsoring agency prior to any changes to the academic program. Unauthorized changes will affect continuation of the scholars' participation in the program.

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<sup>1</sup> Specific details of this "service requirement" will be outlined in the agreement entered into by the selected Scholar, the University at which Scholar is matriculated, and USDA. Also, the "service requirement" is subject to change.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is available to rising college sophomores and juniors who exhibit leadership, community service, and desire to attend one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Again, thank you for your interest and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence.

Sincerely,

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

## USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### Overview

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students attending one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities, pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines. The eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land- Grant Universities are as follows:

Alabama A&M University	Prairie View A&M University, Texas
Alcorn State University, Mississippi	South Carolina State University
Delaware State University	Southern University, Louisiana
Florida A&M University	Tennessee State University
Fort Valley State University, Georgia	Tuskegee University, Alabama
Kentucky State University	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Langston University, Oklahoma	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Lincoln University, Missouri	Virginia State University
North Carolina A&T State University	West Virginia State University

### AUTHORITIES

- Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as the "Second Morrill Act"), 7 U.S.C. §§ 321 et seq.);
- National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, Pub. L .95-113, §§ 1402-1404, 7 U.S.C. §§ 3101-3103;
- Executive Order 13256, President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, dated February 12, 2002;
- 5 CFR Part 410-Training;
- OPM Excepted Schedule A, authority (r), 5 CFR 213.3102(r); and/or
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Student Internship Programs, Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform of 1996 (FAIR Act), Title IX, Section 922 (7U.S.C § 2279c).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:

To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land Grant Universities

To increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, and natural resource science or other related disciplines.

## OBJECTIVE

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land- Grant Universities in any field of study in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines. National Scholars are required to study in the following or related disciplines:

Agriculture Agricultural  
Agricultural Economics  
Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics  
Agricultural Production and Technology  
Agronomy or Crop Science  
Animal Sciences  
Botany  
Business/Management  
Farm and Range Management  
Forestry and Related Sciences  
Food Sciences/Technology  
Home Economics/Nutrition

Horticulture  
Natural Resources  
Management  
Soil Conservation/Soil Science  
Other related disciplines, (e.g., non-medical  
biological, sciences, pre-veterinary  
medicine, computer science)

## AWARD

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as room and board for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

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## WHO SHOULD APPLY

Applicants must be U.S. citizens currently attending an accredited college/university in the United States, completing their freshman or sophomore year of college, and willing to attend or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Universities.

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
  - Have been admitted to or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.
  - Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
  - Intend to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines
  - Demonstrate leadership and community service
  - Submit a current official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature (preferably through the most recent fall semester)
  - Submit a current resume
  - Submit two letters of recommendation from the following:  
Department Head, Dean or Vice President of College, or a University, or a College Professor who has instructed the applicant
  - Submit a 500-800 word essay describing 1) your interest in USDA, 2) how you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and 3) your experience and perceptions about agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences
  - Submit a signed application (original signature only)
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## APPLICATION DEADLINE

All application materials must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2014 and sent to the university(s) selected by the applicant to attend.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should read the application materials thoroughly before completing and submitting the application. Only complete application packages submitted by the application deadline will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. To complete the application process, applicants must do the following:

- Complete the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form

- Complete Biographical Questionnaire

- Prepare a current resume

- Submit two letters of recommendation from:

  - Department Head, Dean of College, or a University Vice President

  - College Professor who has instructed the applicant

- Prepare a 500-800 word essay on the designated topics

- Obtain a recent official transcript with seal and signature of an authorized college/university official

- Sign and date the application

- Submit all documents in one package at the time of application

- Mail the application by the postmark deadline of February 28, 2014

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the college/university prepares a current official transcript and that the document is submitted by the application deadline. All materials must be originals, with original signatures and seals/stamps. Photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship.

Please note: The selection of scholarship recipients will be influenced by the completeness, neatness, and legibility of replies. The application is a fill-able adobe acrobat file. The application may also be printed and filled in by hand in black or blue ink only.

## PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for this Act, please be advised:

1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
2. The data will be used for selection of USDA/1890 National Scholars, printing of certificates, and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by NARA under OMB.
4. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as USDA/1890 National Scholar.

## Affirmation of Candidacy and Authorization for Release of Information

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Scholar, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a National Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am (*check one*) willing\_\_\_unwilling\_\_\_ to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements can be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MM-DD-YYYY

## Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

The questions that follow are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them in the course of their duties.

### A. Biographical Information

(Please Print)

Legal Name in Full:

\_\_\_\_\_

Last

\_\_\_\_\_

First

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle

Sex: F    M

Permanent Home Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City/Town

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code

Telephone:

(Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. Citizen?    Yes    No

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Education

1. Name of College / University currently attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City/Town

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Grade point average should match supporting documentation submitted with the application. Only applicants meeting minimum GPA criteria will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. Please do not submit an application if you do not meet the criteria.

2. List any other schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently first.

Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance

### Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

3. Name of the 1890 University you are attending or to which you have been admitted:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. If applying to multiple 1890 Universities, please list in order of preference (i.e. 1-Most Preferred, 3-Least Preferred)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 University must submit separate applications and send to each school of choice.

5. What course of study (major) will you pursue?

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (Please Identify):

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Note: All academic disciplines may not be at each 1890 University. Check the University's academic offerings before applying.

6. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related disciplines?

Yes    No    If Yes, please explain:

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### C. Activities

1. List volunteer services and jobs you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Activity	Participation Dates	Offices Held	Special Awards

Note: Please be concise and limit your responses to the space provided.

D. Essay

(If completing essay section manually, please attach a type written copy of the essay to the application)

Please review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely.  
Proofread your responses.

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date

This form must be returned to each 1890 University(s) of your choice and  
**MUST BE POSTMARKED BY February 28, 2014**

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How did you hear about the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship?  
(select all that apply)

College fair(s)  
Name of event(s)

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Informational Session  
Location

---

Public Service Announcement  
Stations

---

Direct Mail/e-mail  
Source of communication

---

USDA Employee  
Name of employee(s)

---

Church or place of worship  
Name of Facility

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Website(s)  
Name of website(s)

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Other

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## USDA/1890 National Scholars Application Checklist

1.	I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
2.	I am submitting an original application and transcript to each 1890 University of interest (see addresses on page 15 of this application).
3.	I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University of interest.
4.	I have read and completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
5.	I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from the following: 1. Department Head, Dean of College, or one of the University Vice Presidents 2. College Professor who has served as an instructor in one of my courses
6.	I have enclosed a 500-800 word essay describing 1) my interest in USDA, 2) how I envision the scholarship will impact me and my future as a public servant, and 3) my experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences.
7.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only).
8.	I understand that the application package must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2014 for consideration for the USDA/1890 Scholars Programs Scholarship.

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## 1890 Land-Grant Universities

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alabama A&M University  
Dawson Extension Bldg., Room 300 or  
Post Office Box 1087  
Normal, AL 35762  
(334) 724-4493

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alcorn State University  
1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139  
Agriculture Science Building Rm. 104  
Lorman, MS 39096  
(601) 877-3849

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Delaware State University  
College of Agriculture & Related Sciences  
1200 North Dupont Highway  
Baker Building Annex, Room 102  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 857-7131

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Florida A&M University  
1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard  
Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building.  
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100  
(805) 561-2644

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Fort Valley State University  
USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
1005 State University Drive  
Pettigrew Center, Room 244  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
(478) 825-6298

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Kentucky State University  
Cooperative Extension Building, Room 221  
400 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 597-6955

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Langston University  
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
100 Success Drive, Room V115  
P.O. Box 846  
Langston, OK 73050  
(405) 466-6154

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Lincoln University  
108 Bennett Hall  
818 Lee Drive.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
(573) 681-5108

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
North Carolina A&T University  
1601 East Market Street  
107 B.C. Webb Hall  
Greensboro, NC 27411  
(336) 285-4783

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Prairie View A&M University  
E. E. O'Banion CARC Building, Room 119  
P. O. Box 2736  
Prairie View, TX 77446  
(936) 261-2521

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
South Carolina State University  
300 College Avenue, N.E.  
P.O. Box 7246  
Orangeburg, SC 29117  
(478) 825-6298

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Southern University and A&M College  
College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer  
Sciences  
Fisher Hall, Room 102  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
(225) 774-3870

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John Merritt Boulevard.  
Ag Science Dept., Room 112  
P.O. Box 9629  
Nashville, TN 37209-1561  
(615) 963-5442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tuskegee University College of  
Agricultural, Environmental and  
Natural Sciences Campbell Hall,  
Room 103  
Tuskegee, AL 36088  
(334) 724-4493

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff  
1200 North University  
Mail Slot: 4806  
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799  
(870) 575-7241

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Trigg Hall, Room 1137  
Princess Anne, MD 21853  
(410) 651-6313

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 9416, Carter G. Woodson Avenue  
L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 107  
Petersburg, VA 23806  
(804) 524-5252

Attn: USDN1890 Program Liaison  
West Virginia State University  
302 Curtis R&E Complex  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112-1000  
(336) 334-7709

## Applications Must Be Postmarked by February 28, 2014

For questions, please contact:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Office of Advocacy and Outreach  
USDA/1890 Programs  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 9821  
Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone Number: (202) 205-4307  
Fax Number: (202) 720-7136  
Email: 1890init@usda.gov

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